



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Editor: Stan Rough, 4217 8th Avenue, Temple, PA 19560-1805 Tel: 610-921-5822

Email Editor: Michael Bach, 12 Colorado Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19608 Tel: 610-937-2826

Issue: MARCH and APRIL 2023

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY MARCH 7th at 7:00 pm

Social Time from 6:30 pm onwards

Program: "ANYTHING IRISH"

Members who attend are encouraged to bring anything they might have pertaining to the Emerald Isle, whether it is stamps, coins/bank notes, a shillelagh or a leprechaun.

Treasurer's Report:

We have a bank balance of \$ 1,343.15 (no change) as of 01/31/2023 and our CD stands at \$ 3,076. The majority of dues for 2023 have been collected. I will be sending out a separate email to those of you who have not yet sent them in to me.

Please welcome a new member to the RSCC: Don Barron

Don was born and raised in Tamaqua, PA and started collecting stamps at around 8 year and has done it on and off for the last 50 or so years. My Dad and I collected together for a number of years until he passed away two years ago. I have some roots in Lancaster when I went to School at Stevens Tech for Electrical Engineering and ended up working for RCA in Scranton as an Automation Tech for over 13 year. I had an opportunity to stay with RCA Tube HQ (i.e. Thomson Consumer Electronics) working in IT and relocated to Lancaster until 2001. From there I was still able to stay within the RCA family by transferring to our IP&L division in Princeton NJ for 2 years but moved my family to Douglassville PA. Currently I work for a medical device manufacturer (Viant Medical) in Collegeville for the last 15 years.

I have Daughter, Kaleigh, in Boyertown married to Harrison and made me Pop-Pop to my 1 year old grandson Emmett. My son Connor lives in Wyomissing with his fiancé Shelbie and will be getting married in October, leaving my wife and I empty nesters. I also fly fish, hang out with my two Golden Retrievers and you can catch me in State College for almost every PSU football game.

I collect mostly US stamps with a focus on space and science along with FDC. I hope to learn as much as I can between the RSCC and PSLC and must say already it's been enlightening. I love the energy, excitement and hope to contribute where I can.

King Charles III's stamp unveiled by Royal Mail — and there's one big difference:

The King wanted a more 'simple' design

By [Lisa Joyner](#) 8 Feb 2023



In keeping with stamp tradition, the King faces to the left and appears alongside a barcode printed in matching colours. The image is an adapted version of the portrait created by Martin Jennings for the [new King Charles coins](#), and was carefully adjusted and digitally re-lit to make it suitable for use on definitive stamps.

The stamps will be available to purchase in four different colours. These include:

- 1st Class – Plum Purple, 2nd Class – Holly Green
- 1st Class Large – Marine Turquoise, 2nd Class Large – Dark Pine Green

In a plan to minimize the environmental and financial impact of the change of monarch, stamps featuring Queen Elizabeth II will still be distributed and issued as planned, as long as they feature a barcode. The King's stamps will be available for purchase from 4th April.

King Charles is the seventh British monarch to appear on a definitive stamp. The first was Queen Victoria who appeared on the Penny Black in 1840, followed by Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI, Queen Elizabeth II. "Ever since the Penny Black was issued in the reign of Queen Victoria, British stamps have carried the image of the reigning monarch," Simon Thompson, CEO, Royal Mail said.

"The Definitive stamp has become a recognisable symbol of each reign. Uniquely, British stamps do not have the country of origin printed on them as the image of the monarch is sufficient. So today is a hugely important milestone for Royal Mail and the country as we reveal the image of the new King Charles Definitive."

[I found this comment on the new stamp which probably says it all.](#)

[Luiz Walter Furtado](#) 8 February 2023 at 06:45

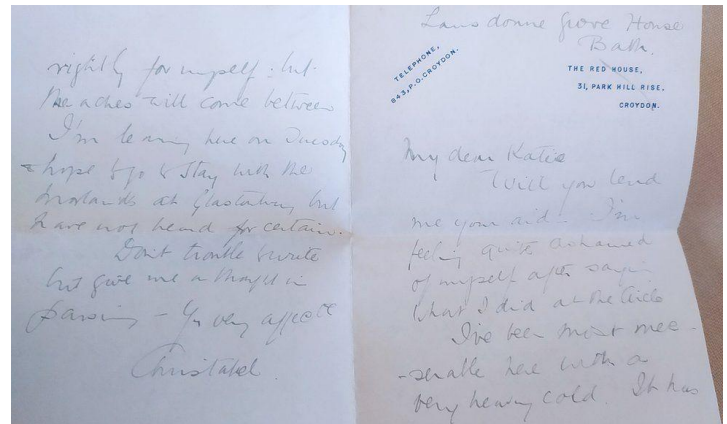
"Nothing that compares to the beautiful profile of the young Queen Elizabeth, but Charles has the disadvantage of having always been ugly and having taken the throne at an old age. Anyway, the artist managed to give an air of dignity and serenity that are the main attributes of a king."

THE ROYAL MAIL: WE WILL DELIVER IT.... EVENTUALLY

Crystal Palace letter arrives more than 100 years late

The letter is addressed to Katie Marsh, the wife of a stamp magnate. By Harry Low BBC News

A letter written in February 1916 has arrived at a flat in south London more than 100 years later. The envelope, which has a Bath postmark and a 1d (1p) stamp bearing George V's head, arrived at Finlay Glen's flat on Hamlet Road, Crystal Palace, in 2021. He said: "We were obviously pretty surprised and mystified as to how it could have been sat around for more than 100 years." Royal Mail said it remained "uncertain what happened in this instance".



The letter was sent two years before World War One rationing was introduced and King George V had been on the throne for five years. Future prime ministers Harold Wilson and Sir Edward Heath were both born later that year. Finlay Glen has kept the letter in a drawer for two years. Although it can be a crime to open mail not addressed to you, under the **Postal Services Act 2000**, the theatre director said he felt it was "fair game" to open once he realised it was from 1916, not 2016.

The letter was written to "my dear Katie", the wife of **local stamp magnate Oswald Marsh**, according to Stephen Oxford, editor of the Norwood Review, a quarterly local history magazine. Oswald Marsh was a highly regarded stamp dealer who was often called as an expert witness in cases of stamp fraud. It was penned by family friend Christabel Mennell, the daughter of a wealthy local tea merchant Henry Tuke Mennell, while on holiday in Bath. In the letter, Ms Mennell stated she felt "quite ashamed of myself after saying what I did", and that she had been feeling "miserable here with a very heavy cold".

Mr Oxford said: "It's very unusual and actually quite exciting in terms of giving us a lead into local history and people who lived in Norwood, which was a very popular place for the upper middle classes in the late 1800s.

"Crystal Palace generated a huge influx of very wealthy people and so to find out about someone who moved to the area for possibly that very reason is absolutely fascinating."

Asked what he would do if the relatives of the sender or recipient got in touch, Mr. Glen replied: "It's an amazing piece of their family history that has turned up - if they want to, they can come round."

The story first appeared in the South London Press on Wednesday.

A Royal Mail spokesperson said: "Incidents like this happen very occasionally, and we are uncertain what happened in this instance."

RE: Oswald Marsh – See Federated Philatelist Front Page just sent out on February 28th

In 1922 Ireland celebrated its independence from United Kingdom after a bloody civil war. Last year was the Centenary of Ireland (Eire) and of Irish stamps. The following articles will cover the beginning and a 100 years later.

The First Irish Stamps

The formation of the Irish State (the 'Free State') in 1922 landed the new Irish Government with a sudden abundance of practical issues to solve. Apart from the fact that a Civil War was about to break out there was also the not inconsequential issue about how the new Ireland should announce its arrival to the world.

One of the ways this is most obviously achieved is by the creation of new coinage and stamps.

As an interim measure the existing stock of British stamps were still used in Ireland, and were over-printed with 'Saorstát Éireann' on them. Clearly this was not a situation that could continue!

So, in early 1922 the newly appointed Irish Postmaster General J.J. Walsh, announced that there would be an artistic competition so that new Irish stamps could be created. It was required that the submitted designs must be *'symbolical in character, and the inscriptions must be in Gaelic characters'*.

The competition attracted great interest from artists including Harry Clarke and Wilhelmina Geddes, both of whom were also well known for their beautiful work with stained glass. Over 800 entries were received.

The design by James Ingram was the first to be printed onto an Irish stamp and is perhaps *the most iconic Irish stamp every created*. The design featured an outline map of Ireland with an arch and zoomorphic ornamentation with shamrocks and Gaelic words.



It is important to note that the entirety of Ireland was shown in the artwork with no visible indication of a border around the six Counties in Ulster. Yet the design is technically accurate as the stamp was issued a matter of days before 'Northern Ireland' actually 'opted out' of the new Irish State in December 1922 as per the terms of the hotly disputed Anglo-Irish Treaty.

It was the following year, 1923, that the other 3 stamps in this most famous set of Irish stamps were issued. Lily Williams, Millicent Grace Girling and John J O'Reilly designed the famous blue Celtic Cross stamp, the Four Provinces of Ireland stamp, and the famous *'An Claidheamh Soluis'* stamp (meaning 'the sword of light').



The design of these stamps was intended to indicate the Irish State as being one based in its own exclusive history and culture, with the extensive use of Irish symbols and language. An expression of nationalism. Yet it is remarkable how these intricate designs are similar in tone to earlier stamps issued by Irish nationalists.

In 1865 the Irish Fenians in north America instigated a number of raids against British forces in what would soon become Canada. They hoped that the agitation in America would inspire agitation in Ireland. As part of their propaganda they created and printed several stamp designs in Boston, a number of which were distributed, raising funds but ultimately having only symbolic value.

Yet it is this very symbolism that endured. Some examples of these Fenian stamps below (known as 'forerunners' and sold for 1, 3 and 24 US cents), would surely not look out of place among those stamps that were actually issued in Ireland over a half a century later.

Apart from stamps there were other efforts to indicate that Ireland was a new nation state. *Irish Passports* were introduced in 1923, *Coins* in 1928 and the imperial red post boxes were gradually painted green! (covering up the original red).



The first Irish *commemorative* stamp (as opposed to a *definitive* stamp) was of [Daniel O'Connell](#) in 1929. We have no way of knowing what the man known as '**The Liberator**' would have thought about Ireland's progress. But what is certain is that the implementation of these seemingly innocuous symbols greatly helped to cement the place of the new Irish State within the consciousness of the world.

1922: 100 Years of History

The anniversary actually started in December with stamps for *The Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921*. The two stamp set featured signatures from the treaty.



2022 is an important year for Ireland. It marks the Irish Free State's 100th anniversary and will feature a number of significant milestones. Irish stamps for 2022 starts with 3 issues showing the handover of Dublin Castle (January 16, 1922), the formation of both the Garda (February 22, 1922) and of the Irish Army (January 21, 1922)



The descriptions below are taken from covers produced by An Post to go along with the three stamps depicted above

LEFT

Centenary of the Formation of the Irish Army

Subject to Article 8 of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the Irish Free State could establish and maintain a military defence force. The National Army, as the pro-Treaty IRA became known, appeared for the first time in their new uniform when Beggars Bush Barracks was handed over by the British authorities on January 31, 1922. Michael Collins was the first Commander in Chief. After the Irish Civil War, the army was reduced in size and later restructured into the Irish Defence Forces (Óglaigh na hÉireann) – which comprise the Army, Air Corps and Naval Service.

—
Minister for Defence, General Richard Mulcahy, inspecting Irish Army soldiers at Dublin Barracks, January 1922

CENTER

Centenary of the Handover of Dublin Castle to the Irish Free State

Article 17 of the Anglo-Irish Treaty provided a mechanism for the formal transfer of British rule in Ireland to the Provisional Government of Ireland. Michael Collins as Chairman of the Provisional Government of Ireland led a delegation to Dublin Castle for the formal handover on 16 January 1922. In the Privy Council Chamber, the last Lord Lieutenant (Viceroy) of Ireland, Viscount FitzAlan received Collins. Other members of the Provisional Government were then introduced to the heads of departments that oversaw the machinery of government in Ireland. After centuries of conflict, the transfer of power was concluded in 45 minutes.

—
Michael Collins, Kevin O'Higgins and W.T. Cosgrave leaving Dublin Castle after the British ceremonially surrendered Irish rule

RIGHT

Centenary of the Formation of the Civic Guard

Prior to the Anglo-Irish Treaty, Ireland was policed by the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP). In January 1922, it was decided to disband the RIC and establish a new police force, the Civic Guard. Michael Staines was its first Commissioner. The force suffered its first fatality when Guard Charles Eastwood was accidentally killed by a comrade in September 1922. This accident led to the disarming of the force. The Civic Guard was renamed An Garda Síochána na hÉireann on 8 August 1923. The DMP was absorbed into An Garda Síochána in 1925.

—
Kevin O'Higgins, Minister of Home Affairs addressing the Civic Guard at the Phoenix Park Depot

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

by John F. Dunn

It is hard to discuss Ireland for long without also including St. Patrick—and St. Patrick's Day—in the discussion. And so, as a supplement to the historical focus of the World of Stamps article by Geir Sør-Reime, we add here a selection of St. Patrick's stamps—the Saint himself as well as the tradition of St. Patrick's Day and the worldwide 'Wearing of the Green'—a song and a term, incidentally, that is not related directly to St. Patrick, but instead is related to the Irish Rebellion of 1798 in particular and to the fight for Irish independence in general. (See page 4 for the lyrics.)

On this page we start with a display of stamps issued by Ireland honoring St. Patrick.



1982, Sc. 520: Conversion of Ireland to Christianity; "St. Patrick and His Followers" by Vincenzo Valdre



2006, Sc. 1649: "St. Patrick Lights the Paschal Fire at Slane" by Sean Keating.



1937, Sc. 96



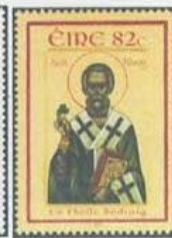
1961, Sc. 179



2004, Sc. 1535



St. Patrick's Day issues, left to right: 2008, Sc. 1769; 2011, Sc. 1912; 2012, Sc. 1952



Next we see a selection of St. Patrick's stamps from around the world.



From the Vatican City, a First Day Cover for the October 6, 1961 set, Sc. 313-316, commemorating the 1,500th Death Anniversary of St. Patrick.



From Pakistan, a First Day Cover for the September 29, 1978 set, Sc. 455-456, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Karachi, Pakistan



Monaco Sc. 1195, St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York



France Sc. 2508, St. Patrick's Day, 1996

Next we show a few more Ireland issues for St. Patrick's Day with themes other than St. Patrick himself.



2007, picturing a Shamrock



Two St. Patrick's Day commemorative covers: top, March 17m, 1956 from Loch Garman, Ireland; bottom March 17, 1959 from Erin, N.Y. The U.S. cover is one of a number of annual cacheted covers, sometimes with pictorial cancellations, produced by towns with names related to Ireland or St. Patrick.

2013, with St. Patrick's Day revellers



Ireland St. Patrick's Day 2003, Sc. 1457-59: St. Patrick; St. Patrick's Day Parade, Dublin; St. Patrick's Day Parade, New York

**AND FINALLY: DO HAVE \$85,000 TO SPARE
THIS COULD BE YOURS!**



**This Mulready Cover with an additional Penny Black
was being offered on Ebay for GBP 75,000.**

**Why so much? It is dated May 6th 1840.
with a second date stamp of May 8th.**

**Also note it has an addition cancel of
“T.P. Holloway Rd” to add to its uniqueness.
IT does have a certificate of authenticity.**

Editor'sNote:

The cover is addressed to Montrose N.B. Montrose is located in what today is called Scotland but in the mid-nineteenth century many in England referred to this area as North Britain abbreviated to N.B. on letters.

